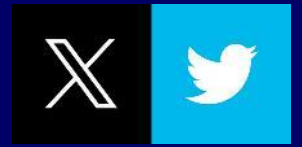




Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

# Newsletter 456

[www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk](http://www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk)



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Parent Consultation meetings and Parent Voice

We were pleased to see so many parents for consultation meetings this week! We were also delighted that so many of you took part in our parent voice consultation on supporting well-being and safety of children in a digital world. We will collate all your responses and share with staff and governors at our next learning committee meeting and draw up an action plan and feedback on your responses and what actions we intend to take.

## Gillespie Foundation

Thank you to the many parents who have spoken to me since I sent the letter sharing the school's financial situation. We have now set up the Gillespie Foundation which has members comprising staff, FoG parents and Governors. I'm delighted to say the Foundation will be chaired by our former Chair of Governors, Claire Bolderson who has 20 years experience of working with our school. I'm looking forward to hosting meetings with parents and carers in January and we will be sending out invites to year groups very soon. I'm excited to explore how we can secure our vision for improving our great school, funded with your help in a sustainable way for the future.



## Playground doors/lateness

Parents will have noticed that we have secured the playground doors in and out of the playground. It is even more important that children get to school on time! The school day begins at 8:55am. We have noticed children arriving in the playground after 9:05am when Mark is closing and locking the doors. Children arriving after 9:05am **MUST** come to school via the school office with their adult.

## Ticket alert!

Book your  
Christmas show  
tickets by clicking  
the image.

Max 2 tickets per family.  
10am and 2pm  
performance will be the  
same.



## Attendance Matters!

| Class        | Attendance WB 02/12/24 |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Reception    | 99.33%                 |
| Year 1       | 99.33%                 |
| Year 2       | 95.86%                 |
| Year 3       | 95.74%                 |
| Year 4       | 99%                    |
| Year 5       | 96%                    |
| Year 6       | 97.14%                 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>97.49%</b>          |



Attendance Cup  
Winner  
WB 02/12/2024  
**Rec & Y1!**

## Cooking weeks

A big shout out to all teachers and supporting TA's from Years 1-6 for your great work over the last two weeks in cooking a healthy meal from scratch with an entire class of children! I know how much effort and preparation you have to put in to be able to achieve these fantastic outcomes for the children.

### Year 4 Learning

Year 4 spent a lovely day in lab 13 this week cooking a healthy nutritious vegetable pasta bake.



### Year 2 Learning

Year 2 enjoyed their time in Lab\_13 this week baking rock buns.



### Learning in Lab\_13

Our STEM and Eco-Committee members reused the tops and bottoms of plastic bottles to make beautiful decorations for any festival or celebration.



## Eco-Committee Cut Your Carbon Challenge

The Eco-Committee asked families to complete six simple actions in November for the Cut Your Carbon challenge. They would now love to hear back from you all. If we submit results, we will be entered into a competition to win a mural for our school to be painted by one of three very talented artists. Make the Eco-Committee very happy by reporting which activities you have managed to achieve at home. You report this to Meg verbally or by e-mail: [mbegley@gillespie.islington.sch.uk](mailto:mbegley@gillespie.islington.sch.uk)

Below is a reminder of the activities. For a more detailed description, please see newsletter 453.

- Make 5 miles of travel 'active'.
- Go plant-based for a day.
- Turn down the heating by 1° for a week.
- Buy nothing new for 1 month.
- Substitute 4 baths for 4 showers and limit them to 4 minutes.
- Switch off all of your non-essential electrical devices for an hour.

**Ongoing reminders** – this information has not changed

### Class assemblies

| Class assemblies  |        |
|---|--------|
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2:30pm<br>@ Sadler's Wells Theatre Rosebery Avenue | Year 2 |

### Upcoming Diary Dates

| Date                                | Event   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December  | 13:30-15:30 Gillespie carol singing               |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December   | Christmas dinner                                  |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December | 10am & 2pm Christmas shows<br>3:30pm Winter Fair  |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December    | Last day of term<br><b>School finishes at 2pm</b> |

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen Headteacher





# FoG News



## Winter Fair - Donations please



The annual **Gillespie Winter Fair** will be running on **Wednesday 18th December 3.45 - 5.45pm**. One fantastic way to support the fair is by donating items from your home that you no longer want or need. *Any items should be delivered to the front office for FoG to collect.*

**Please keep an eye out for requests from your class reps for helpers. The more the merrier!** We're also looking for people to help with set-up, tidy-up and plenty of other key jobs in the run up to the fair, so if you are willing and able to get involved please contact **Sean (07986792367)** or **Ali (07796937465)** or **Max (07812 633 827)**.



## Parent Pledge Secret Auction - Sell Your Skill!

We need your skills or treasures for our **Parent Pledge Secret Auction at the Winter Fair**. Some of the cracking pledges we have received so far:

- \*\*Luxury Skincare Brands Hamper \*\***
- Tickets to Christmas Lights at Kew Gardens**
- \*\* Poker Inspired Team Dynamics Workshop \*\***
- Hoods Honey Hamper of goodies**
- \*\* Arsenal vs Ipswich Tickets**

All random offers are very welcome! We can't do this without you, so **please message Jacqui on 07900188328 to make a pledge!**



## Call for Volunteers for Carol singing



This year's gathering will be held on **Saturday 14th Dec from 13.30pm until 15.30pm**. Singers, shakers, fancy dressers and drum bangers of all ages and abilities are most welcome, so please do come along to support this fantastic festive event. Even if you don't want to sing there are loads of ways to support us. If you would like to help out or come and join in the fun please get in touch with **Anna Payne on 07718915189**



## Another Baking Triumph!



Better late than never! FoG just wanted to say a big thank you to Year 5 parents, and especially the Class rep team of **Rinku** and **Christina**, for their sterling efforts to run their annual bake sale in sub-zero temperatures. With such a delicious array of sweet treats and snacks available the team were able to raise over £300! That amount alone will cover FoG's commitment to provide a **contribution to the school's SEN budget**, and also pay for the **Focus Diversity Literature** for classes and the library. Amazing work guys!

## Dates!

### Upcoming events this term:

| Day | Date     | Time        | Event   |
|-----|----------|-------------|---|
| Fri | 13th Dec | 15:00-16:00 | <b>Y4 Christmas Bake Sale &amp; Uniform Stall</b> - Payment and donations can be made using either card or cash |
| Sat | 14th Dec | 13:30-15:30 | <b>Gillespie Carol Singing</b>  |
| Wed | 18th Dec | 15:45-17:45 | <b>Winter Fair</b>  |

## Ways to Support Friends of Gillespie and the school community

1. **Financial donations:** A monthly direct debit donation of any amount you choose can be set up [here](#) in less than 5 mins, or you can use this QR code to access the site. As an example, if just half of the families at Gillespie contributed the cost of a cup of coffee on a weekly basis, FoG would raise an extra £20,000 a year!
2. **Item donations:** Whether it is unwanted toys, books, sports equipment or uniform, any donation that you can make to FoG for reuse or resale is a huge boost to our efforts. Speak to your class rep about delivering the items, or simply drop them in the front office for a FoG member to come and collect them. Easy!
3. **Time donations:** If you would like to help out in this way then please do get in touch with your class rep or a FoG Committee member - we will certainly have something for you to do!



## KiDSiE Discount Offer



**KiDSiE**  
Your Premium Outlet for Kids' Stuff

Some of the discounts and deals you can find on KiDSiE

- Huffy Bikes**  
30% off RRP
- Scot & Ride**  
30% off RRP
- Skate Hut**  
50% off RRP

Get **BIG** discounts on:  
**Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards, Roller Skates, Heelies, and more!**

Use this referral code to get £5 off and we will donate £5 to your school PTA

**GILLESPIEISLINGTON**

[www.kidsie.com](http://www.kidsie.com)

## Community page



### Children's Christmas Fayre Sunday, 8 December 2-4.30pm

It's Messy Church time again but with a twist this month! We're teaming up with our friends from St Thomas's Pre-School to bring you a Children's Christmas Fayre! Kicking off at 2pm there will be Messy Church Christmas crafts, toys, clothes, and Christmas games. At 3pm there will be a chance to gather to hear the Christmas story, and everything wraps up at 4.30pm. There will be cakes and refreshments to keep you going. We really hope you can join us, and please tell your friends!

A heads up too about our Crib Service on Christmas Eve. We gather in church at 3pm for an interactive Christmas story (complete with dressing up) and followed by hot chocolate. We will be collecting wrapped new toys for the [Toy Project](#), a charity based in Archway who get toys to children who need them.

# Christmas

at St Thomas's

## Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 15 December ❄️ 6pm

A traditional service of readings and carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies

## Crib Service

Christmas Eve ❄️ 3pm

The Christmas Story for children and families, with dressing up, songs and followed by hot chocolate

## Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve ❄️ 11.30pm

At St John's Brownswood Park (N4 2LW)

## Parish Eucharist of Christmas Day

Christmas Day ❄️ 11am

[www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/christmas](http://www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/christmas)